



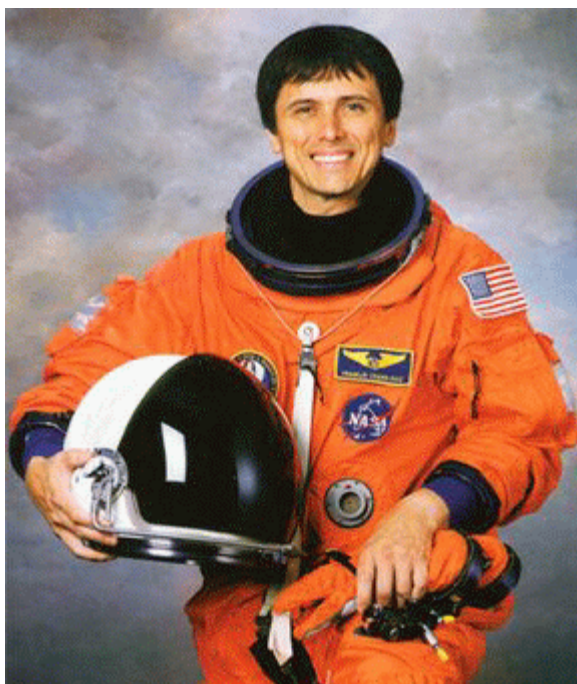
GARLAND BAUCH  
CHAIRMAN, 2000-2001

American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics  
HOUSTON SECTION P.O. Box 57524 Webster, Texas 77598

**Tuesday, September 26, 2000**

**VASIMR:  
A FAST TRIP TO MARS**

**FRANKLIN CHANG-DIAZ (Ph.D.)  
NASA Astronaut &  
Director of JSC's Advanced  
Propulsion Laboratory**



**PROGRAM / PRESENTER**

Dr. Franklin Chang-Diaz will discuss the Variable Specific Impulse Magnetoplasma Rocket (VASIMR), a prototype rocket engine and spaceship designed to cut in half the time required to reach Mars. It could reduce the crew's total exposure to space radiation and lessen time spent in weightlessness. On a mission to Mars, such a rocket would continuously accelerate through the first half of its voyage, then reverse its attitude and slow down during the second half. Franklin received a doctorate in applied plasma physics and fusion technology from MIT in 1977. He began working on the plasma rocket in 1979. The technology has been under development at JSC's Advanced Space Propulsion Laboratory where Dr. Chang-Diaz has been its director since December 1993. Franklin became a NASA astronaut in 1981. He is a veteran of six space flights (STS 61-C, STS-34, STS-46, STS-60, STS-75, & STS-91), and has logged over 1,269 hours in space.

The Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory's observation area will be open to AIAA guests till 7:00 pm.

**DINNER MEETING**

5:45 Social / NBL Viewing  
6:30 Dinner  
7:15 Presentation

**Entree: PIZZA**

MEMBERS & SPOUSES	\$4.00
NON-MEMBERS	\$5.00
STUDENTS	\$3.00

**BOEING TOWER II CAFETERIA - 1st FLOOR  
13100 SPACE CENTER BLVD. (next to the Sonny Carter Training Facility)**

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CALL OR E-MAIL THE CONTACT ABOVE FOR RESERVATIONS.

**NOTE:** RESERVATION DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, AT 5:00 PM.  
ANY CANCELLATIONS ARE REQUIRED PRIOR TO DEADLINE. NO-SHOWS WILL BE BILLED.

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

DINNER RESERVATIONS ARE NOT REQUIRED FOR ATTENDING THE PROGRAM ONLY.  
LEARN MORE ABOUT THE AIAA HOUSTON SECTION AT: <http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/aiaa>